

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action of July 15, 2003.

Status of the Application

Claims 38, 39, 41-50, and 64-105 were pending. The Final Office Action rejected claims 38, 39, 41-49, 64-95, and 97-105, and objected to claims 50 and 96. Claims 38, 39, 41-50, and 64-105 remain pending.

Formal Matters

On April 18, 2003, Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), a PTO/SB/08A form, and copies of the references listed in the PTO/SB/08A form. The Examiner indicated, in a telephonic interview on October 15, 2003, that he had received the IDS and its accompanying references and had considered the references, but had not received the PTO/SB/08A form. Applicant submits herewith a copy of the PTO/SB/08A form that accompanied the IDS of April 18, 2003, and respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the PTO/SB/08A form and return a copy of the initialed PTO/SB/08A form to Applicant's attorney of record, Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 38, 39, 41-49, 64-95, and 97-105 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,312,332 to Walker et al. (Walker) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,938,200 to Markowicz et al. (Markowicz). On October 15, 2003, the undersigned conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner, in which claim 38 and the Walker and Markowicz patents were discussed. The Examiner agreed with the undersigned that claim 38 was allowable over Walker and Markowicz. At the request of the Examiner, a summary of the arguments presented by the undersigned is set forth below.

Claim 38

Even if the prior art provided a motivation or suggestion to combine Walker with Markowicz (which is not admitted), Walker and Markowicz, whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose, or suggest all the elements of claim 38. For example, the applied patents do not teach, disclose, or suggest "displaying at least one group of cells, each cell in said at least one group of cells capable of being designated with a designator in response to any player of the plurality of players achieving the at least one specific outcome, wherein the designator indicates the gaming machine at which the at least one specific outcome was generated."

In Walker, a display indicates a total number of outcomes achieved by a team of players playing at different slot machines. *See Walker*, Fig. 5. Walker, however, does not disclose or suggest a display that indicates which slot machine achieved a particular outcome. Rather, the display of Walker merely indicates the total number of outcomes achieved by the team. Thus, Walker does not disclose or suggest the above-identified element.

Markowicz describes a game having a game display that indicates the progress of individual game participants towards a termination point. *See Markowicz*, Fig. 2. The game display of Markowicz includes two grids of blocks in which each row or column of blocks corresponds to a game participant. *See Markowicz* at col. 3, line 62 to col. 4, line 12; Fig. 2. Therefore, each block of Markowicz corresponds to one and only one game participant. Markowicz does not disclose or suggest "each cell in said at least one group of cells capable of being designated with a designator in response to any player of the plurality of players achieving the at least one specific outcome, wherein the designator indicates the gaming machine at which the at least one specific outcome was generated." Such a designator is not needed in the game display of Markowicz because each block corresponds to one and only one game participant. Thus, Markowicz also not disclose or suggest the above-identified element.

Further, even if the prior art provided a motivation or suggestion to combine Walker and Markowicz (which is not admitted), such a combination would not teach, disclose, or suggest the above-identified element of claim 38. At best, a combination

of Walker and Markowicz may provide a game display that includes a car moving toward a finish line in steps to indicate a total number of outcomes achieved by a team. This would not "display[]" at least one group of cells, each cell in said at least one group of cells capable of being designated with a designator in response to any player of the plurality of players achieving the at least one specific outcome, wherein the designator indicates the gaming machine at which the at least one specific outcome was generated," as recited in claim 38.

Because the applied patents, whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose, or suggest the above-identified element, among others, claim 38 is allowable.

Other Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 64, 81, and 105 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 38, and for additional reasons.

Claims 39 and 43-50 depend from claim 38. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for the same reasons discussed with respect to claim 38, and for other reasons.

Claims 65-80 depend from claim 64. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable for the same reasons discussed with respect to claim 64 and for other reasons.

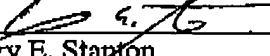
Claims 82-104 depend from claim 81. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable for the same reasons discussed with respect to claim 81 and for additional reasons.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss further, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 15, 2003

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